

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claims 1-9 are hereby amended editorially. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite "an end conduit segment of each of said pipes ends with and forms an entirety of an inlet aperture of each of the pipes opening into the intake chamber", to further clarify that the end segments (13) are integral with the second part (7) of the manifold in which they completely surround apertures (5) opening into the intake chamber, i.e. that the end segments are integral tubular portions that are made in a single piece with the second part (7) of the manifold and have not joints or welds, as supported for example, by Fig. 7. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-9 are pending.

Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of reference FR 2 712 636 submitted with the June 17, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants hereby enclose another copy of the reference submitted with the IDS along with a copy of the postcard showing receipt of all references. As there is not indication the reference was not received, applicants hereby enclose a copy of the Form 1449 for the Examiner's reference.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

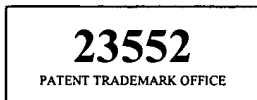
Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fiesel et al. (US 6,752,115). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to an intake manifold or distributor for an air feed circuit for an internal-combustion engine. The manifold consists of only two parts, a first part and a second part. The second part is formed in one piece with end conduit segments of each of the pipes ending with and forming an entirety of the inlet apertures, each of the pipes opening into the intake chamber.

Fiesel teaches an intake device for supplying combustion air to an internal combustion engine composed of two sealingly connected (12) half shells (10, 11) which forms an intake plenum (13), intake ducts (14), and a cylinder head flange (15). The ends of the intake ducts (14) opening into the air plenum (13) are split into two parts, joined by weld (12). Neither of the parts (10, 11) forms an entirety of the inlet aperture. Fiesel fails to teach or suggest a part is formed in one piece with end conduit segments of each of the pipes ending with and forming an entirety of the inlet aperture, each of the pipes opening into the intake chamber. Thus, Fiesel fails to anticipate claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1. For the reasons discussed above for claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

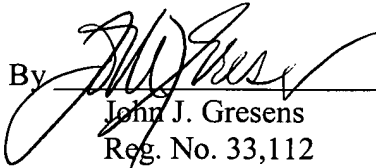


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JJG:mmm

Respectfully submitted,

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